

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:
 - receiving a push-to-talk initialization request;
 - sending a call message to a uniquely identified recipient, wherein the call message is sent in a first control channel over a wireless communication network;
 - receiving a connection status message in response to the call message, wherein the connection status message is received in a second control channel over a wireless communication network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - opening the audio channel on the initiating wireless communication device
 - activating the microphone on the initiating wireless communication device;
 - receiving audio via the microphone; and
 - storing the received audio in a buffer.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 - receiving a channel assignment message corresponding to the push-to-talk request, the channel assignment message identifying a traffic channel; and
 - sending the stored audio over the traffic channel.

7. A system for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:
 - a requesting handset configured for over the air communication in a wireless communication network;
 - a base station configured to communicate over the air with the requesting handset, wherein the requesting handset sends a push-to-talk call request to the base station in a first control channel and receives a responsive connection status message from the base station in a second control channel.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.
11. The system of claim 7, wherein the requesting handset further comprises:
 - an audio channel; and
 - a data storage area, wherein the requesting handset activates the audio channel upon receiving the responsive connection status message and buffers audio received via the audio channel in the data storage area until a traffic channel is established.